

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, the pending claims are: claims 13, 25-27 and 38-40. The Office Action, dated October 5, 2009 has been carefully considered. *As an initial matter, the Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 13, 25-27 and 38-40 were allowable.* Claims 6-12, 15-18, 20, 28-37 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-5, 14, 19 and 21-24 were previously canceled. The Applicants explicitly reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed towards the embodiments of claims 1-12, 14-24, 28-37 and 41. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above Amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated October 5, 2009, the Examiner:

- rejected claims 6, 7, 11, 18 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0186482 to Kolb *et al.* (“Kolb”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,494,913 to Huebner (“Huebner”);
- rejected claims 8-10, 20 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolb in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0032865 to Estes *et al.* (“Estes”);
- rejected claims 12 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolb in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,873,289 to Jarvis (“Jarvis”); and
- allowed claims 13, 25-27 and 38-40.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 6, 8, 9, 12, 20 AND 28

Independent claims 6 and 28, and dependent claims 7, 11 and 18, which are dependent upon independent claim 6 and dependent claims 29 and 30, which are dependent upon independent claim 28, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kolb in view of Huebner. Independent claims 8, 9 and 20, and dependent claims 10 and 34, which are dependent upon claim 9 and dependent claims 31-33, which are dependent upon independent claim 8, have been were rejected as being unpatentable over Kolb in view of Estes. Independent claim 12 and claims 35-37, which are dependent therefrom, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kolb in view of Jarvis.

As an initial matter, the Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 13, 25-27 and 38-40 were allowable. Claims 6-12, 15-18, 20, 28-37 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-5, 14, 19 and 21-24 were previously canceled. As such, the present application is believed to be in proper condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all remaining rejections and allowance of claims 13, 25-27 and 38-40 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due for this submission. If, however, the Commissioner determines otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may now or hereafter be due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

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Response to Office Action dated October 5, 2009

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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